

As an Amateur Radio Operator, I am in favor for the NCVEC Petition. The Removal of Element 1 Testing will expedite exam sessions, and remove the barrier for competent operators and potential operators who have problems passing the 15 WPM characters sent, spaced at 5 WPM. In Light of the IARU WARC 2003 Conference, Dozens of Countries have unanimously agreed that the testing and proficiency to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz has become obsolete, and removed the operating proficiency testing requirement for Operation on frequencies below 30 MHz. As an Amateur Radio Operator licensed since 5/24/1994, I have taken the 15 CPM/5 WPM 14 times and have failed every time, not because of lack of knowledge of Morse Code, but I have failed every time, because I operate on the 50 MHz band at 3 to 5 WPM, with my characters sent at 5 WPM, not 15 WPM. I do recommend and foresee that there is a need to keep the CW only portions of the Amateur Radio Bands, but removal of the Element 1 Morse Code Testing will result in more Amateurs, who will purchase more radio equipment from local suppliers, enhancing a unstable Economy, and providing jobs in the Manufacturing field.